

August 22, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. The State Government's Group of Ministers (GoM) has approved the removal of the 12% and 28% tax rates imposed under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime.
 - i. The Finance Ministry had last week recommended to the GST Analysis Group to reduce the current 4-tier GST rates of 5%, 12%, 18% and 28% to 2-tier – 5% and 18% respectively and impose a 40% tax rate on only 7 items including tobacco, gutka and pan masala.
 - ii. Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary is the coordinator of two committees set up to analyze GST rates and make recommendations on GST exemption for medical and life insurance premiums. Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary is the coordinator of the committee recommending compensation Cess.
 - iii. Since these proposals will come into effect only if they are approved at the GST Council meeting next month, the opposition is planning to air their grievances at that meeting.
 - iv. Currently, essential food items including milk, eggs, yogurt, and salt are exempted from GST. 5% for daily use items like sugar and tea, 12% for items like butter, ghee, mobile phones, goods like soap, coconut oil, ice cream are taxed at 18%, while goods like televisions, refrigerators, and air conditioners are taxed at 28%.
 - v. In this situation, once the GST Council approves the revised GST rate, 99% of items taxed under 12% will be brought under 5% slab.
 - vi. Similarly, 90 percent of items taxed under 28% will be brought under the 18% tax slab.
 - vii. This will significantly reduce the prices of daily necessities, increase cash flow among the people, and increase consumption. It will also facilitate easy business for small businesses and innovative companies.
2. The Rajya Sabha has approved a resolution to refer three bills to a Joint Parliamentary Committee for the removal of the Prime Minister, State Chief Ministers and Ministers from office who are arrested on serious criminal charges and remanded in custody for 30 days.
 - i. Earlier, it was approved in the Lok Sabha and now it has been approved in the Rajya Sabha as well.

- ii. Amidst strong opposition from the opposition, Amit Shah moved a resolution in the Rajya Sabha to refer these bills to a joint parliamentary committee. The Rajya Sabha approved the resolution.
 - iii. The committee has been tasked to submit its report by the last day of the first week of the next parliamentary session.
 - iv. The next session (winter session) will begin in the third week of November.
3. The 'Breakfast Meal Scheme' will be extended to Government-aided schools in cities. The Chief Minister M.K. Stalin will launch the scheme in Chennai on Aug. 26.
- i. The scheme to provide breakfast to government school students was launched in Madurai on September 15, 2022. Following a huge response, the project was expanded at a government event held in Thirukkuvula, Thiruvavur district. A total of 18.50 lakh students studying in 30,992 schools are benefiting from this.
 - ii. The breakfast program has increased the number of students attending school and improved the children's learning abilities.
4. The Karnataka Crowd Control (Management of Gatherings at Events and Places of Public Assembly) Bill, 2025 was introduced in the Assembly.
- i. Those organizing events that involve large gatherings of people must obtain prior permission from the relevant authorities. The police station in-charge may grant permission for events with a gathering of less than 7,000 people.
 - ii. If a gathering of more than 7000 people and less than 50 people is planned, permission must be obtained from the Deputy Superintendent of Police. If more than 50,000 people are to gather, prior permission can be obtained by submitting an appropriate application to the Superintendent of Police of the District or the Police Corporation Commissioner.
 - iii. The new bill provides for a prison sentence of 3 to 7 years or a fine of Rs. 1 lakh for those who organize events that involve large gatherings without respecting these rules.
 - iv. The opposition parties also accused the Government of trying to put pressure on political party meetings through this bill.
5. The Union Sports Ministry expects the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) elections to be held based on the new Sports Bill passed by the Government.
- i. The Central Government has passed a new bill in Parliament to regulate all sports federations, but the new legal regulations have not yet been published in the official gazette.
 - ii. The BCCI has also been brought under the new bill. The BCCI executive elections will be held in September.

- iii. The BCCI can hold elections as per the recommendations of the Supreme Court-appointed Justice Lodha Committee. The Sports Ministry has said that the elections should be held accordingly if the new Sports Bill norms come into force.
6. The 'Online Gaming Development and Regulation Bill 2025', which bans online gambling games played for money, was passed by a voice vote in the Rajya Sabha.
- i. This bill, which aims to prevent financial fraud, money laundering crimes and financial losses of the public through online gambling, has already been passed in the Lok Sabha.
 - ii. Thus, the bill, which has been passed by both the Houses, will now be sent for the President's assent. Once the President's assent is received, it will come into force as a law.
 - iii. With this, all games played for money online, such as poker, rummy, gambling, lottery, and betting, will be made illegal. Other online games and educational and skill-building games will be recognized and regulated.
 - iv. Nearly 45 crore people have been affected by these games. More than Rs. 20,000 crore of hard-earned money of middle-class families has been wasted.
 - v. The World Health Organization's document lists online gaming addiction as a disease.
7. During the monsoon session of Parliament, 12 bills have been passed in both houses of Parliament amid chaos and walkouts by opposition parties.
- i. Reservation to Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the Goa Assembly,
 - ii. Merchant Shipping Bill,
 - iii. The Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill,
 - iv. The Manipur Appropriation Bill,
 - v. National Sports Governance Bill,
 - vi. National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill,
 - vii. Income Tax Bill,
 - viii. Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill,
 - ix. Indian Ports Bill,
 - x. Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill,
 - xi. IIM (Amendment) Bill,
 - xii. Promotion and Regulation of Online Games Bill
8. India has categorically rejected Nepal's claim to the Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand.
- i. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi recently arrived in India for a two-day visit to hold talks on the India-China border issue.

- ii. At that time, both sides decided to resume cross-border trade between India and China through the Lipulekh Pass, Shipki La Pass and Nathula Pass. The Lipulekh Pass is in Uttarakhand.
 - iii. Meanwhile, Nepal's Foreign Ministry has objected to the India-China decision to open cross-border trade through the Lipulekh Pass, stating that the pass is an integral part of Nepal.
 - iv. Cross-border trade between India and China through the Lipulekh Pass began in 1954 and continued for many years. It has now been decided to resume trade through the pass, which had been halted due to the spread of the coronavirus and other incidents.
 - v. There is no valid reason or historical basis for Nepal's claim to the Lipulekh Pass. Arbitrary claims to territorial areas are unacceptable.
 - vi. Nepal had earlier released a map in 2020 showing Kalapani, Limpiyadhura, and Lipulekh in Uttarakhand as part of its territory. It is noteworthy that India categorically rejected it.
9. China has protested against the US imposing a 50 percent tariff on Indian goods.
- i. The United States recently implemented a 25 percent tariff on certain Indian goods imported into the country.
 - ii. Expressing dissatisfaction with India's import of crude oil from Russia at this 25 percent rate, US President Trump imposed an additional 25 percent tariff on Indian goods.
 - iii. This additional tariff is expected to come into effect on August 27. This will increase the US tariff on Indian goods to 50 percent.